

Civilisation and Races of Southern Italy 415

influence waned, Frederick II. found it necessary to have an official version of the Constitutions, as promulgated at Melfi, drawn up in Greek.

The Orthodox population, moreover, found several influential patrons in priests or high officials of their race whom Roger II. raised to the highest rank. Such were the Emir Christodulus, patron of Greek churches in Calabria, the monk Bartholomseus, founder of the Greek abbeys of Patir and Messina, Eugenius and George of Antioch in Palermo. In addition they had literary champions and friends at court, in Nilus, Cerameus, and others.

The influence of the Greek population was powerfully supplemented by the administrative system and civilisation, bequeathed by the Catapults of Apulia and the imperial rulers of Italy. Constantinople, in all these centuries the real home of political science and classical art, radiated over the nearer West an irresistible influence; the "Orientation" of Southern Italy in particular is the great feature of its history in this period; the Norman conquerors could not escape the "geographical fatality" of the land they inherited.^x

It is Guiscard who first appears on

his coins and
seals with Greek inscriptions, and
dressed in the
style of a Basileus. His nephew Roger,
in building
up a great administrative system,
could no more
avoid employing the trained and
supple Byzan-

* Bertaux, *op, cit.*, vol. i., p. 16.